

Message Text

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S/S:MR BRIDGES

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T STATE 011173

NODIS

FOR SEITZ-LONDON, FOR AMB.SCRANTON--USUN

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 00051 ACTION SECSTATE JAN 17.

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 0051

NODIS

FOR SCHAUFLE FROM EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF

SUBJ: RHODESIA RICHARD'S PLANNED VIIT TO VORSTER

REF: CAPE TOWN 0051 (NODIS)

1. SUMMARY. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, RICHARD IS COMING TO SEE VORSTER JANUARY 19 DESPITE BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S FEELING AND SOME INDICATION FROM BRAND FOURIE THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM NOT TO SEE VORSZER UNTIL HE HAS MORE TO SAY. FOURIE EXPRESSED
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UNEASINESS ABOUT VORSTER'S POSSIBLE REACTION AND MANY ALSO BE CONCERNED ABOUT HAZARDS OF CREATING FALSE EXPECTATIONS THROUGH PRESS SPECULATION. RICHARD MAY SEE SMITH FOLLOWING VISIT WITH VORSTER AND IS APPARENTLY CONSIDERING BRIEFING SOME PRIVATE SECTOR GROUPS IN RHODESIA. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR BOWDLER AND I CALLED ON BRITISH AMBASSADOR SIR

DAVID SCOTT SOON AFTER MY ARRIVAL TO SEE IF HED WORD ON IVOR RICHARD'S PLANS. SCOTT SAID THE BRITISH PAPER WAS STILL NOT APPROVED BUT HE UNDERSTOOD APPROVAL WAS EXPECTED THIS EVENING AND HE HOPED TO HAVE WORD TONIGHT OR TOMORROW MORNING. AS FOR AS RICHARD'S TRAVEL WAS CONCERNED SCOTT WAS NOT SURE WHAT LONDON WOULD DECIDE. HE HAD RECOMMENDED AGAINST RICHARD COMING TO SEE VORSTER IN THE ABSENCE OF HAVING SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT ASSURANCES FROM THE NATIONALIST AND FRONT LINE STATES SINCE VORSTER HAD SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER RECOMMENDING THE BRITISH PLAN TO SMITH ONLY IF RICHARD GOT CERTAIN ASSURANCES. RICHARD HAD ARGUED ON THE OTHER HAND THAT HE SHOULD REPORT TO VORSTER ON THE PROGRESS OF HIS TALKS AND, INTER ALIA, EXPLAIN THAT HE DID NOT ACCEPT THE FRONTLINE STATES' EXCLUSIVE RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

3. SCOTT THEN SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED TO FOURIE EARLIER IN THE AFTERNOON AND FOURIE HAD EXPRESSED SOME UNEASINESS ABOUT A MEETING RIGHT AT THIS TIME, BECAUSE VORSTER WAS PREOCCUPIED WITH THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT AND OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS AND MIGHT REACT ADVERSELY IF RICHARD CAME IN WITH NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT THE HAD OBTAINED THE KIND OF "BANKABLE ASSURANCES" THEY TALKED ABOUT AT THE FIRST MEETING. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SCOTT NOTED THAT FOURIE'S EARLIER SUGLESTION THAT RICHARD SEE VORSTER BEFORE SMITH WAS MADE BEFORE THE CANCELLATION OF THE MAPUTO MEETING AND WAS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT RICHARD WOULD BE COMING WITH SOME RESULTS FROM HIS MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. SCOTT ALSO ADDED THAT FOURIE MIGHT ALSO BE CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING VORSTER FROM FURTHER INCURSIONS ON HIS HEAVY SCHEDULE. NONETHELESS, SCOTT INDICATED THAT HE HAD DETERMINED
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THAT VORSTER COULD SEE RICHARD EITHER WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 19,OR THE FOLLOWING MORNING AND HAD SO INFORMED LONDON. (SCOTT'S CONTACT WITH FOURIE WAS APPARENTLY BY TELEPHONE AND MUST HAVE BEEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHECKING ON POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT TIMES.)

4. ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT FOURIE WAS REVERSING HIS EARLIER VIEW THAT RICHARD SHOULD SEE VORSTER BEFORE SMITH, SCOTT REMARKED THAT FOURIE WAS AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE BRITISH WERE EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT WITH SMITH ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY BUT NEVERTHELESS VOICED HIS UNEASE ABOUT A MEETING WITH VORSTER NOW.

5. SCOTT SAID HE HAD ALSO TALKED TO RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD HAWKING THIS AFTERNOON (PRESUMABLY ABOW THE POSSIBILITY OF RICHARD VISITING RHODESIA) AND THAT HAWKINS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF RICHARD COULD GIVE SMITH THE BRITISH PROPOSALS BEFORE GOING AROUND AND GETTING THE BLESSINGS OF A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE, SO SMITH COULD HAVE AN

OPPORTUNITY OF SUGGESTING ANY CHANGES THAT MIGHT SEEM DESIRABLE. IN ANY EVENT, SMITH WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO SEE RICHARD ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON JANUARY 20 OR ANYTIME FRIDAY.

6. SCOTT ALSO MENTIONED THAT RICHARD HAD BEEN INVITED BY A MR. EDDY OF THE "PRIVATE SECTOR COORDINATING COMMITTEE" IN SALISBURY TO CTME AND ADDRESS VARIOUS BUSINESS AND OTHER GROUPS IN RHODESIA, AND RICHARD HAD ASKED SCOTT TO SEE IF THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES. SCOTT RAISED THIS WITH HAWKINS WHO SAID THAT EDDY HAD ASKED THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIE WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION TO INVITING RICHARD TO VISIT CERTAIN BUSINESS INSTALLATIONS, BUT HAD NOT MENTIONED THAT THIS WOULD BE FOR RICHARD TO ADDRESS THEM. NONETHELESS, SINCE THE AUTHORITIES IN SALISBURY HAD ALREADY TOLD EDDY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTIONS TO RICHARD "VISITING" CERTAIN GROUPS, HAWKINS SAID HE WOULD NOT ASK SALISBURY BUT WOULD SIMPLY SAY THAT THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS, SECRET

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LEAVING IT VAGUE WHETHER RICHARD WOULD BE SIMPLY "VISITING" OR "ADDRESSING" PRIVATE SECTOR GROUPS. (I HEARD RICHARD DISCUSSING SOMETHING LIKE THIS WITH GRENNAN MUCH EARLIER, AT WHICH TIME RICHARD SAID HE WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO GO ON A WEEK'S TOUR TO TALK TO PEOPLE IN RHODESIA.

7. DURING CONVERSATION ABOUT PROS AND CONS OF SEEING VORSTER NOW, I REPEATED THE REASONS WHY DEPARTMENT BELIEVED RICHARD SHOULD SEE VORSTER BEFORE SEEING SMITH. I EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW IT WOULD STILL BE WORTH SHILE FOR RICHARD TO SEE VORSTER AT THIS STAGE, BUT STRESSED I HAD NO RECENT GUIDANCE REGARDING WASHINGTON'S VIEW ON THIS ASPECT AND ASSUMED DEPARTMENT WOULD CONVEY ANY SPECIAL VIEWS IT MIGHT HAVE TO LONDON WHERE THE DECISION WAS BEING MADE. I NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT HAD RAISED THROUGH THE SEITZ-DUFF CHANNEL IN LONDON, THE MATTER OF ASSURANCES ON THE CIVIL SERVICES, JUDICIARY, ETC. AS SOMETHING THAT OUGHT TO BE MENTIONED IN PRESENTING ANY STRUCTURAL PAPER TO VORSTER AND SMITH. THUS, WHILE RICHARD HAD NO "BANKABLE ASSURANCES" TO PASS TO VORSTER AT THIS TIME, HE COULD REPORT ON THE FRONTLINE STATES POSITIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD CEASING GUERILLA WARFARE UPON INSTALLATION OF AN AGREED INTERIM GOVERNMENT, EXPLAIN HIS POSITION AGAINST EXCLUDING MUZEREWA AND SITHOLE, REVIEW THE ASSURANCES BRITIAN HAD IN MIND FOR RHODESIAN WHITES, AND ASK VORSTERS' ADVICE ON HOW BEST TO APPROACH SMITH. HE WOULD NOT NEED TO ASK VORSTER TO APPROACH SMITH HIMSELF UNTIL HE HAD ASSURANCES NAILED DOWN AND DOCUMENTED.

8. SCOTT REVEALED THAT IN AN EARLIER EXCHANGE ON THE DRAFT PAPER, LONDON APPARENTLY REJECTED AN IDEA FROM RICHARD THAT SOMETHING BE INCLUDED ABOUT THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS,

AS THEY APPARENTLY FEARED THIS WOULD RAISE AFRICAN SUSPICIONS,
AND MIGHT ALSO PREJUDICE THE UK POSITION THAT SANCTIONS WOULD
END AUTOMATICALLY ONCE RHODESIA RETURNED TO LEGALITY.

9. REGARDING VORSTER'S ATTITUDE, SCOTT OPINED THAT RELATIONS
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BETWEEN VORSTER AND SMITH WERE NOT GOOD. COMMENTING THAT VORSTER
HAS REFUSED TO SEE SMITH WITH THE ARGUMENT THERE WAS NOTHING TO
DISCUSS. SCOTT THOUGHT THIS WAS ONE MORE REASON VORSTER WANTED
TO BE SURE THAT RICHARD HAD "BANKABLE ASSURANCES" FROM THE
AFRICANS BEFORE HE ADVISED SMITH TO CONSIDER ANYTHING THAT
DEPARTS FROM ANNEX C.

10. COMMENT: SOME OF FOREGOING INFORMATION MAY BE OVERTAKEN
BY THE UK DECISION TO HAVE RICHARD COME SEE VORSTER ANYWAY
(REFTEL). FOURIE'S "UNEASE" ABOUT THE MEETING MAY BE DUE TO
SEVERAL FACTORS, INCLUDING SOME CONCERN THAT RICHARD'S VISIT
COULD CREATE FALSE EXPECTATIONS AMONG THE PUBLIC, AS IT WILL
DRAW MUCH SPECULATIVE ATTENTION FROM NEWS-HUNGRY SOUTH AFRICAN
JOURNALISTS GATHERED IN CAPE TOWN FOR THE OPENING OF
PARLIAMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, FOURIE'S "UNEASE" MAY NOT BE AS
STRONG AS SCOTT SENSED OR FOURIE MIGHT HAVE TRIED HARDER TO
DISCOURAGE A RICHARD VISIT. IT IS CONCEIVABLE FOURIE WAS USING
THIS MEANS OF FOREWARNING THE BRITISH THAT VORSTER MAY BE
IMPATIENT AND NONE TOO PLEASED BY THE MEAGER RESULTS RICHARD
HAS ACHIEVED SO FAR. VORSTER'S MOOD MAY BE INFLUENCED BY
ANGER AND FRUSTRATION AT THE AFRICANS' INTRANSIGENCE AND THE
CONTINUING DETERIORATION OF THE OVERALL SITUATION FROM
HIS POINT OF VIEW. IN ANY EVENT, BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITIES
AND MIXED EMOTIONS THIS SUBJECT AROUSED IN SOUTH AFRICA --
RANGING FROM HOPE FOR A SETTLEMENT TO FEARS OF A SELL-OUT --
RICHARD WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL IN
HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING OR ABOUT HIS VISIT HERE.
BOWDLER UNQUOTE
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